



Attorney's Docket Number: S5118

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicants §
Theriault, et al §
§ Examiner: Phan, Tiem D.
Serial No: 09/698,817 §
§
Filed: October 26, 2000 § Group Art Unit: 3729
§
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD §
FOR MAINTAINING A DRY §
ATMOSPHERE IN A SURFACE §
MOUNT DEVICE PLACEMENT §
MACHINE §

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SEP 22 2003

TECHNLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the Office Action dated July 11, 2003, in which the Examiner indicated a requirement for restriction. Please enter the following reply and reconsider the Examiner's restriction requirement.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.